

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

10/527536

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 02P01188WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2003/009638	International filing date (day/month/year) 28 August 2003 (28.08.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 11 September 2002 (11.09.2002)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC D06F 37/26			
Applicant BSH BOSCH UND SIEMENS HAUSGERÄTE GMBH			

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>
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Date of submission of the demand 13 April 2004 (13.04.2004)	Date of completion of this report 10 January 2005 (10.01.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2003/009638

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

The international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages _____ 1-8 _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages _____ 1-11 _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages _____ 1/4-4/4 _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

This report makes reference to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0 854 223 (BALAY SA) 22 July 1998

D2: US-A-4 276 806 (MOREL HENRI) 7 July 1981

1. D1 is regarded as the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1. D1 discloses a washing liquid tub for a washing machine according to the preamble of claim 1.

D2 describes a housing for electrical appliances with a removable lid and a lid-fastening system.

2. The subject matter of claim 1 differs from the washing liquid tub known from D1 in that the diameter of the lugs is larger than the diameter of the connection region of the openings and in that a dowel can be introduced into the lugs from a rear access.

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

3. The problem to be solved by the present invention can therefore be regarded as that of

- a) creating a "snapping effect" whereby the two halves of the washing liquid tub are initially held together.
- b) achieving an expansion of the lug so that "the walls of the lug press against the walls of the opening of the radial extension".

With regard to a), D2 describes the same advantages as the present application regarding the feature whereby "the diameter of the lugs (8) is larger than the smaller diameter of the connection region of the openings of the radial extensions".

In D2, however, the fastening device is separate from the flanges. The fastening device in D1 must therefore be modified in a non-obvious way by a person skilled in the art in order to arrive at a fastening device like in D2.

With regard to b), D2 also describes an expansion of the lug such that "the walls of the lug press against the walls of the opening of the radial extension" by a dowel being introducible into the lug from a rear access.

The inside of the lug in D1 must therefore also be modified in a non-obvious way, similar to the device in D2, by a person skilled in the art for an insertion of this type so that an expansion is achieved.

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The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)):

Theoretically, it would be possible to combine the features of D1 and D2; however, this combination does not appear to be obvious because various features would have to be selected from the documents and partially modified in order to arrive at the claimed combination of features. Furthermore, the documents do not suggest that such a combination is possible.